instructions are also being issued from time to time to the State Governments and Union Territories administration to contain illegal migration. The detection and deportation of foreign nationals/illegal migrant is a continuous process and action is being taken by the Government regularly. Deployment of adequate Para Military Forces has been done in the border areas and coordinated joint actions are carried out regularly by State Police and Border Guarding Forces.

Action plan to strengthen police and intelligence machinery

482. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly three months after PM proposed 100 day plan to address emergency security challenges, the Home Ministry had finalized action plan to strengthen police and intelligence machinery;

(b) if so, whether under 100 days action plan the Ministry prepared details for how police, internal security, Naxal and other wings thereof would provide better security infrastructure across country;

(c) if so, what action on the action plan has been taken; and

(d) to what extent the security has been strengthened in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) A Yes, Sir. The Action Plan to strengthen Police and Intelligence machinery includes, *inter-alia*, initiatives for gearing up intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and operational co-ordination between different agencies of the Central and the State Governments; establishment of online, dedicated and secure connectivity between designated Members of Multi-Agency Centre (MAC), MAC and the Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres (SMACs) in 30 important identified locations and between the SMACs and the State Special Branches to enhance the level of preparedness and upgrade the security infrastructure; modernizing, strengthening and up-gradation of the State Police and security forces; establishment of NSG hubs in 4 locations; activation of the National Investigation Agency; amendment of the CISF Act to enable deployment of CISF in Joint Ventures or Private Industrial undertakings; expediting procurement of equipment and weaponry; etc. and these security arrangements are being reviewed from time to time.

Steps taken to decongest jails

483. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian jails are facing acute shortage of space in keeping convicts/undertrials;

(b) what is the total number of jails and its capacity; and

(c) the steps taken to decongest the jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. At the end of 2007, the overcrowding in Indian prisons exist to the extent of 135.7%.

(b) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of jails in the country at the end of 2007 was 1276. The total authorized capacity of these jails is 277304.

(c) With a view to reduce the overcrowding in jails, the Government of India has taken following measures:

(i) Amendment in Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 by inserting a new article *viz* 436A on 23.6.2006 which provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment, provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence. Further, Section 436 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended on 23.6.2006 to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused for a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

(ii) Setting up of Fast Track Courts for disposal of long pending cases.

(iii) Introduction of scheme of Plea Bargaining from 5.7.2006.

Apart from the above steps, the Government of India has also initiated the process of formulating second phase of the scheme of Modernisation of Prisons after consultation with the States/UTs in the All India Conference of jail Ministers/Principle Secretaries (Prison)/DG/IG (Prisons) held in April 2008. Apart from other components being proposed in the second phase, the emphasis shall be laid on construction of new jails/additional barracks so as to address the problem of overcrowding.

Villages captured by Maoists in West Bengal

484. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maoists have captured hundreds of villages in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Maoist activities and violence were recently reported in West Midnapore district of West Bengal. State Government has been dealing with the situation successfully and Central Government has supplemented the resources of the State Government in terms of deployment of Central Para-Military Forces, funds under Modernization of State Police Forces and Security Related Expenditure Schemes.